

# WORLD NEWS and PROPHECY

## Biblical Perspectives on Current Events

April/May 2000

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# Pope's Spiritual Journey Very Political

*Thought by some to be the most important visit Israel had ever hosted, Pope John Paul II's "personal spiritual journey" to the Holy Land turned out to be one of the most political of his 22-year pontificate.*

by Melvin Rhodes

**T**he pope's visit comes at a critical time in the long and troubled history of the Middle East.

The biblical lands that constitute the Holy Land are the birthplace of three major religions—in chronological order of their appearance on the world stage, Judaism, Christianity and Islam. The region is also the crossroads of the three continents that have played the most significant roles in the history of the world. Jerusalem, at the very center of it all, has been fought over more than any other single piece of real estate in history. The Bible tells us that it is to be fought over at least one more time, "trampled by the Gentiles until the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled" (Luke 21:24).

Nobody can deny the city's disputed status. Its 3,000-year history has seen it dominated by many different nations and peoples, including the three religions that deem the city holy.

Roman Catholics had possession of it for over one hundred years during the Crusader Kingdom of Jerusalem. The Protestant British took it from the Moslem Turks in 1917, ruling the city until it was divided 31 years later as the modern nation of Israel was born. The "Old City" of Jerusalem was to remain a part of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan until the Six-Day War of 1967. For 33 years, Israel has controlled all of Jerusalem and con-



Source: AP News

*Palestinian flag waves during pope's visit*

siders it "the Eternal Capital of Israel," though few other nations recognize it as such, preferring to keep their embassies in less controversial Tel Aviv.

(See "POPE," page 3)

### *In This Issue...*

**Pope's Spiritual Journey Very Political — "Civil Unions": The Genesis of Untold Controversy — China-Taiwan Tinderbox — What's Happening in Europe?**

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# Contents

## Pope's Spiritual Journey Very Political

by Melvin Rhodes . . . . . page 1

## "Civil Unions": The Genesis of Untold Controversy

by Cecil E. Maranville . . . . . page 4

## The China-Taiwan Tinderbox

by Mario Seiglie . . . . . page 7

## Just What Is Happening in Europe?

by John A. Jewell . . . . . page 10

## In Brief... World News Review

by Darris McNeely, Cecil E. Maranville,  
John Ross Schroeder . . . . . page 13

## This Is the Way... The Enemy Became a Human

by Robin Webber . . . . . page 16

Read *World News and Prophecy* as soon as it is completed. The next issue is scheduled to be available on June 9 on the Internet at <http://www.ucg.org/html/literat.shtml#4>.

The United Church of God provides *World News and Prophecy (WNP)* as an educational service for interested persons. The purpose of *WNP* is to help readers discern the times and increase their awareness and understanding of current events in the light of Bible prophecy. Although the staff strives for truth and accuracy in its reporting, analysis and Bible commentary, *WNP* is not a doctrinal publication. Articles do undergo both an editorial and a review process.

**“POPE,”** (Continued from page 1)

What few people realize is that many of the prophecies in the Bible that relate to the “end time”—prior to the second coming of Jesus Christ—could not possibly have been fulfilled until the modern state of Israel was established in 1948. Israel’s existence has led to never-ending conflict in the region. The Jewish state is the most powerful military force in the area, having gained the upper hand over its enemies through the continuous conflict that has afflicted the peoples of the area for over half a century.

The current so-called “peace process” sponsored by the United States is a progressive, organized handover of lands captured by the nation of Israel during this time of conflict—territory considered essential for Israel’s security at the time it was taken. A younger, more liberal generation now seeks peace at almost any price. The hope is that by handing back captured territories, Israel’s enemies will become friends. The reality is that each completed stage of the peace process further weakens the Jewish state.

What is overlooked is that all the land of Israel, including the internationally recognized borders the country was given at its birth, belonged to others in recent times. No matter how much land the Israelis return to the Palestinians during the ongoing peace process, there will be demands for more. Eventually, the most vexing question of all will have to be resolved: Who will rule Jerusalem?

At this critical time in Israel’s history, Pope John Paul II arrived, walking into this controversy with its pent-up frustration, anger, bitterness and resentment. As students of the Bible know, the conflict goes back even further, to the rivalry that existed between two brothers in ancient time, Isaac and Ishmael, ancestors of the Israelites and the Arabs, respectively. You can read about their rivalry in the book of Genesis.

### **Pope’s apology**

It’s impossible to understand the complexities of the Middle East without knowledge of the Bible and the his-

tory of the three religions that came out of this area. Animosity between the peoples of these three religions have probably caused more deaths in the last 2,000 years than any other single factor that divides people. Realizing that the Catholic Church was often responsible for encouraging the persecution of Jews and animosity toward Muslims, the pope came with an apology, attempting reconciliation with both religions. In fact, he even apologized before leaving the Vatican for the Holy Land.

However, the apology was not sufficient for many who feel the church is still not facing up to its past. Recent revelations about the role of Pope Pius XII during World War II have caused feelings to flare.

The pope spoke at Yad Vashem, the Jewish memorial to the Holocaust, saying the Catholic Church is “saddened” by the Holocaust, rather than “sorry,” which would be an admittance of some guilt. The church’s teaching that “the Jews killed Christ” has echoed down through the centuries and greatly contributed to much of the anti-Semitism that has plagued the Jews for two millennia.

Many Israelis were disappointed at the weak apology given, though few seemed to doubt the personal sorrow the present pope feels. It would be impossible for the pope to acknowledge the sins of previous church leaders as this would go to the very heart of church doctrine and bring into question the 1870 Doctrine of Papal Infallibility, thereby weakening his own position.

After his visit to Yad Vashem, the pope attended an Inter-Faith Dialog between leaders of the three religions. One person present described the session afterward as a “dialog of the deaf.” Beliefs are too deeply entrenched for much common ground to be found.

### **Support for Palestine**

But it was in the political arena that the pope’s words were most felt. His call for an independent Palestinian state will only encourage the declaration of independence that Palestinian leader Yassir Arafat keeps threatening. As the

Palestinians only control pockets of land bordered on most sides by Israelis, such a declaration would inevitably ignite further conflict in the Middle East.

Most issues can probably be resolved, given outside pressure and assurances from world powers, the United States in particular. But a solution to the Jerusalem question would require the wisdom of Israel’s ancient King Solomon, the builder of the temple that is at the center of controversy. The Temple Mount is of great importance to the Jews. Upon it is built the Muslim Dome of the Rock from which the prophet Muhammad is said to have ascended to heaven. Whatever else can be divided, this piece of land cannot be.

One possible solution is the internationalization of the “Old City” of Jerusalem, of importance to all three faiths. In recent times, a number of contentious issues have been internationalized; the latest ones are Kosovo and East Timor. Forces from a number of nations are currently based in both areas to keep the peace. The same could happen to Jerusalem.

Vatican City, as the world’s smallest nation and without an armed force of its own, could itself play a role, perhaps as guardian of the Christian holy sites. There are historical precedents for this.

Whatever course is taken, Jerusalem will fall under the temporary control of non-Israelites as the Bible shows. The Middle East is at the center of Bible prophecy. A conflict there could soon involve major nations around the world.

Asked by His disciples what events would indicate the imminence of His return to the earth to establish the Kingdom of God, Jesus Christ spoke of a time when they would see “Jerusalem surrounded by armies” (Luke 21:20). Interestingly, in verse 22, He spoke of this as “the days of vengeance,” a time when all the animosities that have been simmering explode in major conflict that literally threatens the existence of the planet. “And unless those days were shortened, no flesh would be saved; but for the elect’s sake those days will be shortened” (Matthew 24:22). ❖

# “Civil Unions”: The Genesis of Untold Controversy

*Canada, the European Union and the small state of Vermont have all introduced laws that seek to rewrite social mores and customs about marriage. Some believe the proposed revisions correct wrongs and promote justice; but, to the contrary, they will engender controversy without end.*

by Cecil E. Maranville

*The Vermont Supreme Court ruled that gay and lesbian couples were being discriminated against in the state, because they were denied the benefits provided to heterosexual married couples.*

What image does *Vermont* bring to mind? Maple syrup, spectacular fall scenes and skiing in the Green Mountains are typically associated with this small New England state—the state where I was born and raised. It was at that time noted for its conservatism, and its citizens were known for family values.

Within the last several months, Vermont has made legal and social news in the United States, first with a Supreme Court ruling in December, followed by legislation introduced in and passed by the Vermont House in March.

The Vermont Supreme Court ruled that gay and lesbian couples were being discriminated against in the state, because they were denied the benefits provided to heterosexual married couples. The state legislature subsequently acted in a groundbreaking manner, choosing a course not taken by any other U.S. state, and created a “civil union” for same-sex couples.

The bill, which is expected to pass the Vermont Senate in April, was aptly dubbed “by far *the most sweeping measure of its kind* in U.S. history” by a supportive editorial in the *Harvard Crimson*, a Harvard University newspaper (“Vermont Decision Spurs Debate About Gay Marriage,” U-Wire, March 20, 2000, p. 1, emphasis added throughout).

Exactly what this legislation has accomplished, and whether it is good or bad promises to be the subject of debates in and out of the courts and legislatures of the land for years to come.

Peg Byron, education director for Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund (a gay advocacy group) heralded the legisla-

tion as “groundbreaking.” She added, “I think it really sets a moral as well as a legislative example for the rest of the country” (“VT House OKs Civil Unions for Gays,” AP Online via COMTEX, March 17, 2000).

Contrary voices include Roman Catholic Bishop Kenneth Angell, who said, “This bill is about a minority imposing [its] concept of morality upon the morality of the majority” (ibid.).

Another sharp criticism comes from Janet Parshall, spokesperson for the Family Research Council. “The Vermont House’s vote...to allow homosexual partners to form ‘civil unions’ is nothing short of an endorsement of ‘same-sex marriage,’” she said.

“In spite of the people’s opposition to counterfeit marriage, the legislature has moved one step closer to giving the people just that. If it looks like marriage and smells like marriage, then it is marriage—regardless of how much syrupy language is used” (“Vermont Senate Should Reject Counterfeit Marriage, FRC Says,” PRNewswire, March 17, 2000).

## Resembles marriage in all respects

The civil union described in the proposed legislation certainly does sound like a marriage, entitling couples whose union has been “certified” by a justice of the peace, a judge or a member of the clergy to some 300 state benefits and privileges presently available only to married couples. Some of those benefits and privileges include:

- Property. Civil union partners would be entitled to joint title, transfer from one to the other on death and property transfer tax

benefits—the same as married couples.

- Lawsuits. As with married couples, one in a civil union would be able to sue for the wrongful death of a partner, the emotional distress caused by a partner's death or injury, and loss of consortium caused by death or injury.

- Probate. Probate law and procedures related to spouses would apply to civil union partners.

- Adoption. Civil union partners would be entitled to all the protections and benefits available to heterosexual couples when adopting a child. (Current Vermont law already allows same-sex couples to adopt, but the proposed law would require that those in civil unions be treated as spouses.)

- Insurance. Civil union partners of state employees would be treated as spouses for insurance or continuing care contracts.

- Abuse. Partners in civil unions would qualify for various abuse programs as spouses.

- Discrimination. Laws prohibiting discrimination based on marital status would be applied to civil union couples.

- Compensation. Provisions and victims' compensation and workers' compensation related to spouses also

would apply to civil union partners.

- Health care. Spousal rights in making medical decisions, and spousal privileges for hospital visitation and notification would be afforded to civil union partners.

- Testimony. As with spouses, partners in civil unions cannot be compelled to testify against one other.

- Taxes. Same-sex partners in a civil union would be entitled to file joint state tax returns, like a married couple. (Source: "Benefits of VT Civil Union Bill," AP, March 17, 2000.)

*"In spite of the people's opposition to counterfeit marriage, the legislature has moved one step closer to giving the people just that," said the Family Research Council.*

The civil unions could not be broken without going through Family Court proceedings! Although, using Ms. Parshall's words, civil unions "look like marriage and

smell like marriage," many legislators who

worked on the Vermont bill feel that they made a strong statement for traditional marriage and against same-sex marriage. A special amendment was added to the bill for that specific purpose, stating that the term *marriage* is preserved solely for the union of a man and a woman.

That satisfied few people. A supportive editorial in the *Daily Targum*, a Rutgers University newspaper, opined that the proposed civil unions "mirror heterosexual marriages and provide all the same rights and privileges. The unions will be everything that marriage is, [except] in name..." ("Winds of Change," U-Wire, March 20, 2000).

Calling the bill "the first step toward queer [the term preferred by many same-sex union advocates] equality," the same editorial said there was a long way to go still.

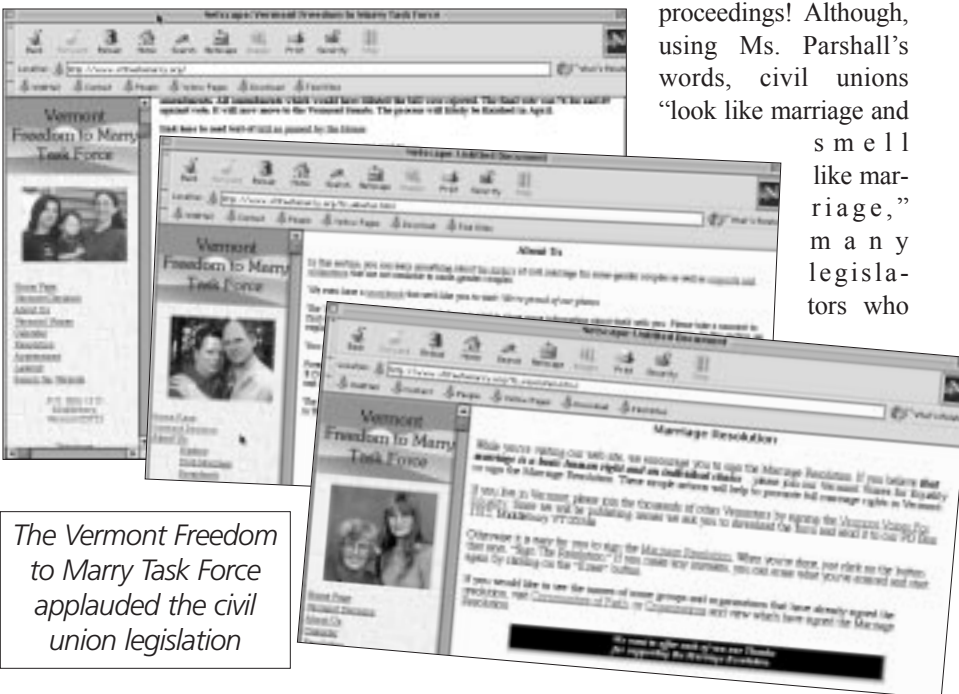
### Legal minefield

That "long way to go" speaks to the social, moral and legal crisis that was only increased—not resolved—by the Vermont legislation. The so-called "full faith and credit" clause of the U.S. Constitution guarantees in essence that each state will recognize the laws of other states. "Full faith and credit shall be given in each state to the public acts, records, and judicial proceedings of every other state" (Article IV, Section 1).

In spite of this law, 30 U.S. states have enacted legislation to deny recognition to same-sex partners whose unions are legally recognized in another state. Challenges in the courts on constitutional grounds are inevitable.

Although Vermont authorities have already warned couples not to come there from out-of-state to obtain a civil union, expecting to return home and have that union legally recognized, you can count on the fact that some will do exactly that in order to mount a legal challenge.

The United States is not alone in the debate. Although without the



authority to pass binding legislation, the EU Parliament recently adopted a resolution that urges its 15 member nations to grant same-sex couples rights equal to those of heterosexual couples. The resolution called on its member nations to “guarantee one-parent families, unmarried couples and same-sex couples rights equal to those enjoyed by traditional couples and families, particularly as regards tax law, pecuniary rights and social rights” (“EU Urges Gay Couple Equal Rights,” AP, March 17, 2000).

Denmark, Belgium, Sweden and the Netherlands already have laws guaranteeing those benefits to extra-marital couples regardless of gender. Other EU member parliaments are currently debating the question.

The Canadian federal government has proposed Bill C-23 that will give same-sex couples the benefits and obligations of common-law couples. The Canadian debate is a mirror image of the U.S. arguments.

Responding to a firestorm of public protest, Justice Minister Anne McClellan agreed to amend the legislation to say that the proposed law would not affect the institution of marriage. Similar to the amendment added to the Vermont bill, the proposed Canadian law stipulates that the word *marriage* means “the lawful union of one man and one woman to the exclusion of all others” (“Commons Committee Votes to Accept Amendment to Include,” CP, March 23, 2000).

Again, similar to their U.S. counterparts, gay and lesbian advocates strongly object to the amendment. What they seek is not just benefits, but legitimacy.

### **Incredulity at widespread support**

The Family Research Council’s spokesperson asked a probing question, “Why does the Vermont House seem more in tune with an intimidating, but small minority of homosexual activists than their own people?” (op. cit., PRNewswire). Indeed, why are nations throughout the Western

world willing—even anxious to extend marital benefits to same-sex couples at the same time as they deny that they are undermining traditional marriage? Are people so consumed with wanting to “be fair” that they are blinded to the consequences of their actions?

Far from bringing resolution to complex issues, recent legislative actions in Vermont, Canada and the EU have opened a Pandora’s box of argument and debate unlikely to be resolved this side of the Kingdom of God. Again, why have so many been willing to sign on to this trend? I have a theory.

I’ll allow the editorial of the *Daily Targum* about the Vermont bill, quoted above, to explain it. “The queer couples will be married by law, receiving their just legal rights. [Obviously, the writer sees the Vermont civil union as a mar-

*Far from bringing resolution to complex issues, recent legislative actions in Vermont, Canada and the EU have opened a Pandora’s box of argument and debate...*

riage, which undoubtedly shows how many will interpret it.] In the eyes of the church, they will remain unrecognized. The bill smartly sidesteps the moral question in this respect.... They are recognizing them as civil unions—they are partners in the eyes of the law, but not in the church.”

Read “God” for “the church.”

In my opinion, the “creative legislation” of Vermont and Canada has attempted to create marriage without God. I believe that this approach will have wide appeal among people of all moral persuasions. I am reminded of the apostle Paul’s observation of people who “did not like to retain God in their knowledge” (Romans 1:28), and

I believe that assessment is applicable to today’s society.

Not that all people want life without God, mind you. I see most as wanting a kind, merciful and generous God, but one who keeps any strict opinions to Himself, a “nonjudgmental Judge.” For that reason, because most people do not want the real God in their everyday lives, I predict that this “novel” approach to same-sex unions—marriage that is not a marriage—will grow in popularity. Because traditional marriage (properly) reminds people too much of the real God and His Word, I predict that heterosexual couples will begin to ask for this type of certification—a civil union over a traditional marriage.

### **Distancing themselves from God**

In another time, another people organized their society so that God would not “interfere,” would not prohibit them from exercising their “rights.” Their society was symbolized by a tower that, to them, meant freedom from God. The citizens became passionately unified in their desire to shut God out. He could not force His opinion or His will on them, they reasoned.

So God came down to visit them, we are told in the Scriptures, to see their society and their tower firsthand. He found them unified all right, but unity is not always good—a reality lost upon many, so it seems. What their single-mindedness accomplished was fast-tracking their own corruption in the name of “freedom.” You can read of this watershed event in Genesis 11. You know the construction project. It’s called the tower of Babel.

Now people are constructing a legal, moral tower of Babel to guarantee equality that they do not believe they would receive from living by God’s Word. There is a growing unity to shut Him out.

What would God say if He came down to visit *this tower* firsthand? We haven’t long to wait to learn the answer to that question. ❖

# The China-Taiwan Tinderbox

*The Korean War showed how easily a local war in Asia, like the brewing China-Taiwan conflict, can escalate.*

by Mario Seiglie

**F**ew people today remember much about the Korean War (1950-53). It started as a civil war between North and South Korea. Yet, since there were political and strategic interests involved, soon the United States, the former Soviet Union, China and 19 other nations entered the dangerous fray. Besides the Koreans, the primary contenders were the United States and its United Nations allies on one side, and China and the former U.S.S.R. on the other. In that war, the U.S. suffered over 150,000 casualties, South Korea over a million, and North Korea and China about two million.

At one point in 1951, U.N. commanding officer General Douglas MacArthur urged attacking China and blockading its coasts as the only way to defeat the enemy. President Truman feared this would lead to a world war between the United States, China and the Soviet Union.

After two more years of bloody combat, a truce agreement was signed that left Korea divided. This unresolved conflict remains one of the world's trouble spots.

But more importantly, this war showed how easily a local civil war in Asia can escalate to epic proportions and involve the world's major powers.

## The recent Taiwan elections

Now, 50 years since the start of the Korean War, another Asian threat looms on the horizon. The small, but economically powerful island of Taiwan has elected a president whose political platform calls for independence from mainland China. The Chinese authorities have said such a



declaration would trigger a war. This could lead to alignments among the world's major powers that resemble the past. Moreover, a recent poll among the Chinese showed 95 percent favor going to war if Taiwan declared its independence.

How did this explosive situation arise?

In 1949 several million Chinese fled to this island after Mao Zedong, the Communist leader, conquered mainland China. From that time the Chinese have threatened to invade Taiwan, but thanks mostly to strong U.S. support of the island, the threat has never been carried out.

## Chinese incorporation of Hong Kong and Macau

In recent years China has become more emboldened by annexing Hong Kong and Macau. Now only Taiwan remains outside the fold.

Yet Taiwan is a far different situation. Instead of being on the Chinese coastline as

*Taiwan has elected a president whose political platform calls for independence from mainland China. The Chinese authorities have said such a declaration would trigger a war.*

Hong Kong and Macau are, it is a prosperous island 160 miles (250 kilometers) off the coast. Its sizable population of 23 million and its successful democratic and open economic system has helped Taiwan attain one of the world's highest standards of living. Taiwan produces 80 percent of all computer motherboards in the world. Unlike Hong Kong and Macau, it has a considerable military force, is not a foreign-run country and passionately resists being incorporated by China. Meanwhile, mainland China is still beset by a rigid, one party Communist rule and a very low standard of living which, of course, does not attract the Taiwanese people in the least.

On the other hand, for Chinese President Jiang Zemin, Taiwan is the last and juiciest of all former territories left to recover. He realizes incorporating wayward Taiwan would place him in the Communist pantheon with the likes of Mao Zedong and Deng Xiaoping.

One U.S. official commented, "After the return of Hong Kong in 1997 and Macau in 1999, Taiwan is the last reunification issue on Beijing's agenda. It's also a cause that appeals to Chinese nationalism and could rally popular support for the leadership. It's a life and death issue for the Chinese regime" (*The Washington Post*, March 16, 2000, p. 22).

Sino-expert Elizabeth Rosenthal adds, "It is hard for non-Chinese to understand the depths of Chinese devotion to Taiwan, which is born partly of decades of Communist Party propaganda and partly of humiliations of China's history, when Westerners carved up China for their economic advantage. 'China was divided when it was weak, and now that it is getting strong again, people's nationalist feeling rises and they feel strongly it is time to reunite the country,' said Zhang Yunling, the head of South Asian Studies at the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences" (*The New York Times*, March 20, 2000).

### **Navigating between Scylla and Charybdis**

In ancient times, when one had to avoid two dangerous extremes, it was

said he was between Scylla and Charybdis, two famous perils seamen had to avoid. Newly-elected Taiwanese President Chen Shui-bian now has to guide his nation between two great dangers. One is provoking China into a war, which is increasingly becoming a real possibility. The other is backing down from his political pledge of independence and enraging his followers, which would undermine his political strength.

Up to now, to avoid either extreme, he has resorted to pleasing both sides. With China, he has extended an olive leaf, toned down the independence rhetoric and expressed a desire to visit mainland China to calm tensions.

With his partisans, he has said, "Taiwan is an independent, sovereign country; it is not a part of the People's Republic of China" (*Newsweek*, March 27, 2000, p. 26). He has also rejected as "unacceptable" China's "one country, two systems" formula for reunification, and has stressed Taiwan will not follow in the steps of Hong Kong and Macau.

This balancing act seems difficult to maintain in the long run. Chen has great pressure to live up to his pledge of independence, while China's patience is dwindling fast.

"Even before the election," explained *Newsweek*, "Beijing sensed that Taiwan was slipping away. In response, military hard-liners have launched a campaign to boost China's readiness for conflict. The military has pushed for bigger budgets and training programs focused on naval power projection and amphibious lift—all crucial to an invasion scenario. Last week mainland scholars warned darkly that reunification by force 'could be just a matter of hours away'" (March 27, 2000, p. 27).

Recently, Wei Jingsheng, a Chinese dissident who spent 19 years as a political prisoner in China, told *The Washington Times* he thought China's warning that Taiwan might not get a second chance for peace if they elected Chen was a sign that China had already decided to invade Taiwan.

### **Trapped in the middle**

Caught in the middle of this dangerous dispute is the United States. Several times in the past, when America saw early signs of Chinese aggression toward Taiwan, it dispatched some of its carriers into the area to quell the rising tensions. The last time was in 1996, just prior to Taiwanese presidential elections, when China lobbed some missiles in front of Taiwan. The U.S. dispatched two aircraft carriers to the region and China backed off.

But U.S. relations have also changed toward Taiwan. In 1979, the U.S. allowed a 24-year-old defense treaty with Taiwan to expire and replaced it with the Taiwan Relations Act that only requires the U.S. to give Taiwan the means to protect itself.

The U.S. calls this new relationship with China and Taiwan "strategic ambiguity," which means neither side knows how committed the U.S. is to entering a possible conflict. To please China, the U.S. formally recognized it as the sole legal authority, but still insists on having cultural, commercial and unofficial (meaning military) relations with Taiwan. In this way, China never knows how far the U.S. will go to defend Taiwan, and neither does Taiwan know how far the U.S. is prepared to back it if it declares independence. This "ambiguity" could be tested in the future.

### **China and Russia's new "strategic partnership"**

Lately, China has been building up its war arsenal thanks to a new partnership with Russia. Soon China will receive two modern Russian destroyers that China hopes can curb U.S. power in the region. It also has many submarines (71), missiles that can reach Taiwan (200) and advanced Russian fighter jets (40).

*The Los Angeles Times* reported, "Alarmed by U.S. political and military might worldwide, both Moscow and Beijing have called for increased cooperation to check American power and to pave the way for a 'multi-polar

world'.... For Russia, attempting to strengthen ties with China is a logical move to counter Western leaders who oppose the Chechen war on humanitarian grounds" (Dec. 9, 1999).

Pavel Voshchanov, a Russian former secretary to the president, stated in the same article, "China is the only one of Russia's neighbors that has not clearly oriented itself either toward the West or toward the Muslim world. In order to be able to ignore both these opponents, Russia needs to have a third force, and China is a perfect candidate for this mission."

Russia is the chief supplier of arms to China, and in a possible conflict involving Taiwan and the U.S., it would be difficult for Russia not to side with China.

For example, in the past year, as the Chinese celebrated their 50th anniversary of Communist rule, President Jiang took a swipe at the U.S. and vowed to "unite" China and make it powerful again. A reporter at the celebration wrote: "Just as pointedly, a formation of Russian-made Su-27 fighters roared overhead, evidence of a newly declared 'strategic partnership' with Moscow (the two nations began their first-ever joint naval exercise last week)" (*Time*, Sept. 27, 1999).

Most military strategists consider China still doesn't have the firepower to successfully invade Taiwan. *Newsweek* asked, "Now that Chen is at the helm, will China invade? Beijing hoped Taiwan would think so. But an attack is unlikely for now. China's generals realize they still lack the muscle to succeed in an outright invasion" (March 27, 2000).

*BBC News* offered this analysis on a possible Chinese attack against Taiwan: "So the big question is whether the U.S. would actually be prepared to go to war with China over Taiwan. The U.S. points to its military build-up in the region four years ago [1996] as proof of its commitment. But deploying battleships, and actually firing on China are very different things, and President Clinton has gone to great lengths to improve relations with Beijing which he would not throw away lightly.

"In a sign of deepening Congressional mistrust of China, the House of Representatives recently approved legislation to deepen the ties with the Taiwanese military, although the bill looks unlikely to pass the Senate. President Clinton has also said he would veto the bill. But this is his last year in office, and if Beijing increases the pressure on Taiwan in the run-up to the elections there, *the question of Taiwan might also become a factor in the American elections too*" (March 7, 2000, emphasis added).

### A troubling hot spot

Taiwan has now entered a new scenario. Gone are the days when all the Taiwanese leaders came from the same ruling party (the KMT) and sought a status quo with China. Now, the jour-

*If China invades Taiwan, then either the U.S. backs down and shows great weakness and cowardice by allowing the island to be swallowed up, or it steps in.*

ney to preserve the peace will be far more difficult. *Newsweek* said both China and the KMT knew Chen Shui-bian's victory "would mean not only the end of the KMT era. It would put China's dreams of peaceful reunification almost out of reach—and could even make its leaders start considering war" (March 27, 2000).

Everything depends on what China and Taiwanese President Chen Shui-bian will do. An ever-present danger is that, just as in the wars in Korea and Vietnam, what could begin as a local civil war between China and Taiwan could eventually involve the world's main powers—who have far more deadlier firepower than before.

To complicate matters, a well-

respected Chinese newspaper reported China would consider using neutron bombs, which can destroy people but not buildings, if an amphibious invasion failed. After this report, this Chinese government newspaper was shut down, since they had revealed classified material. A U.S. newspaper mentioned, "'Editors of Haowangjiao (Weekly) released something they were not supposed to release,' a man at its parent publication who refused to identify himself said Tuesday... But it isn't clear whether the article's publication was a blunder or a deliberate but deniable warning to Taiwan and the United States" (*Spokane Spokesman-Review*, March 22, 2000).

If China invades Taiwan, then either the U.S. backs down and shows great weakness and cowardice by allowing the island to be swallowed up, or it steps in. Since China has a strategic partnership with Russia, which now has a president who showed a ruthless side in the Chechen war, what will Russia do? Will it back China (which sorely needs Russian weapons) and use this show of bravado to promote the much needed Russian nationalism? If this happens, it could cause the United States to react and interrupt aid and commerce to China and Russia, among other things.

### Regional tinderbox

In sum, history has shown that great conflagrations can begin with local civil wars, which eventually activate different alliances and lead to larger conflicts. Two end-time alliances could arise from such smaller conflicts. The first is mentioned in Revelation 17:13 where 10 kings give their "power and authority" to the beast. Another is mentioned in Revelation 16:12 where the "kings from the east" prepare to invade the Holy Land.

Taiwan is a tinderbox worth watching, for an armed conflict there could produce a domino effect among the world's most powerful nations and activate their different alliances. It is one of the many possibilities that could lead to an end-time scenario. ❖

# Just What Is Happening in Europe?

*Prophecies in Daniel 2 can help us make sense of the rapid changes in Europe. Here are some things to watch.*

by John A. Jewell

**W**hen Nebuchadnezzar, the powerful king of the great Babylonian empire, dreamed of an awesome image, he was seeing world history unfold from his time to the time when Christ would return to set up God's Kingdom on earth. (See accompanying article, "An Outline of Future History.")

Today we are most interested in the feet and 10 toes of the image, which God showed Daniel would exist at the time when the Kingdom of God would be established. God identifies the 10 toes as 10 kings or authorities, partly strong and partly weak.

Rome, the fourth empire of Nebuchadnezzar's vision, ruled the world from its European center. The successive manifestations of that empire through history have also been centered in Europe. We should be keenly aware of what is developing in Europe, as well as other regions of the world such as the Middle East.

Since World War II, the nations of Europe have moved slowly toward unity. From a grouping of six nations, it has become the European Community, first of 12, now, 15.

## **A single currency**

Now events in Europe appear to be moving much faster. A further configuration of nations—an inner grouping—has been in existence for more than a year. If you count Belgium, Holland and Luxembourg as one power or authority—as the Benelux grouping—there are nine authorities or groups in this inner configuration that are now bound together within the single currency.

Greece was originally refused entry, as it was felt her economy would not be able to stand with the others. Recently, however, Greece has gotten her act together and has resubmitted her



*The EU is promoting the euro as the currency of the future*

application to join the single currency. This will be considered in June with the anticipation that the European Union will admit Greece to this inner grouping, effectively the 10th member by the end of this year.

A single currency is always the key to the establishment of a federal system. Babylon certainly had it, as did Rome. In World War II, Hitler instituted a single currency throughout occupied Europe, the reichsmark.

The key to the single currency is Germany. It is interesting to note how it was with much soul-searching that Germany decided to give up the deutsche mark. So attached is the German to his DM that there is no way that the nation would give it up, unless it felt there was great national benefit in doing so.

With a single currency, there is a necessity for a central control. The European Central Bank in Frankfurt now sets the interest rates for the whole of the inner grouping. A single currency necessitates a central political control and common taxation.

*Now events in Europe appear to be moving much faster. A further configuration of nations—an inner grouping—has been in existence for more than a year.*



*Map of the EU highlighting 11 countries currently in the single currency group—"euroland"*

For centuries, Germany has been at the center of European affairs. Today, Germany has regained this status within the EU. It has large and powerful industries. The Deutsche Bank, which took over the New York Bankers' Trust and is now merging with the Dresdner Bank, comprises probably the largest and most powerful financial institution on the face of the earth.

It is interesting to note that former

British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, in a speech given in 1995 in Colorado Springs, Colorado, said: "You have not anchored Germany to Europe; you have anchored Europe to a newly dominant, unified Germany. In the end, my friends, you'll find it will not work."

Britain has consistently tried to prevent a federal system from coming into being in Europe. Britain historically has kept away from political involvement within Europe, preferring to use the policy of "balance of power" to prevent any one power dominating the whole of Europe. For 500 years, this policy has been highly successful.

Currently all EU member states have veto power when it comes to certain economic and military issues. But soon they may be forced to yield their veto power, which would transfer more power to the European Commission and Parliament.

## The end of Britain's veto?

Why are Germany and France pushing for 13 nations of eastern Europe to become members of the European Union, but not as members of the single currency group? Some analysts believe that with the addition of these nations as members of the European Union, it will not be possible for any one nation to have a veto, as this would render the whole system unworkable. All decisions then would be by majority voting.

There is another reason for the extension of the European Union eastward. Germany especially has always feared attack from the east. In World War II Germany used Poland as a buffer zone against the first impact of a strike by the Soviet Union. The 13 nations trying to enter the European Union extend from the Baltic to the Black Sea in an unbroken chain, from Estonia to Bulgaria, forming a perfect

# An Outline of Future History

In Daniel 2, we read of a dream King Nebuchadnezzar had. The dream, as God revealed to Daniel, was of a great image "whose splendor was excellent...and its form was awesome" (verse 31). Daniel goes on to describe this image, which had a head of fine gold, chest and arms of silver, the belly and thigh of bronze and then the legs of iron, but with the feet of a mixture of iron and miry clay. This mixture has a fundamental flaw, being partly strong and partly weak.

Daniel then gives the interpretation. He explains in verses 38 and 39 that Nebuchadnezzar had seen a depiction of four mighty, world-dominating empires that would succeed the one then existing. The head of gold symbolized Nebuchadnezzar, as he represented the great empire of Babylon. It was a fabulously wealthy empire, militarily, politically, and economically irresistible. But it was succeeded in 538 BCE by the Medo-Persian Empire, not as wealthy, but still with the same nature—aggressive, ruthless, dominating.

The belly and thighs of brass represented the third empire under Alexander the Great. Alexander united the Greek states and went on to conquer Asia Minor, Syria and Egypt. He then invaded northern India and almost made it to the Ganges—a colossal military feat!

Verse 40 describes the fourth empire. All of these empires were manifestations of the same spirit and attitude and within a similar structure in the same area of land—that of Europe

and the Middle East. This fourth empire was characterized by iron, symbolic of the Roman Empire, with the focus now in Europe. Again, it was to be powerful militarily, politically and financially.

It is interesting to note in verse 42 that the toes were unlike the legs in that they had the strength of iron, but the weakness of clay. At the same time, these toes do exactly what our human toes do. They give support and power to the whole. In verse 44, God refers to the toes as kings. These 10 kings—or authorities or nation states—combine and work together to give that power to the rest of the structure. At the time those 10 powers come together, God says He will set up a kingdom that will never be destroyed. Obviously, this has not yet occurred.

So what do we see? What is it we can know concerning the image—these four world-dominating powers? They are empires, a grouping, or perhaps a federation of nation states under one central government. They are empires that will be powerful, wealthy and politically and militarily unmatched by any other. We can know from history that their predecessors have had an aggressive, intolerant and domineering attitude. We also know that some form of the fourth empire will be in existence at the time of Jesus Christ's return to set up His Kingdom that will stand—forever.

—John A. Jewell



*Flags of the European Union*

buffer zone on the eastern borders of the EU.

Concerns regarding the threat from the east have increased recently as a new rapprochement arises between Russia and China, both nuclear powers. There is also a new militarism within Russia, with a 50 percent increase in military spending, in spite of the poverty of the average Russian citizen.

### **Reaction to Freedom Party sets a precedent**

Doesn't the average European citizen have a lot to say about the development of the Union, since it is a democracy? Actually, it is a democracy in name only. European institutions such as the Council of Ministers, the European Commission, the Central Bank, and the President of the European Commission are all appointed—not elected to office.

A graphic example of the way things work in the European Union occurred recently in Austria. Austria conducted a democratic election last winter. The right wing Freedom Party, led by Jorg Haider, did extremely well and was then taken into the government in a coalition. The EU objected very strongly to the Freedom Party having a part in government and immediately applied heavy sanctions against Austria to try to force the isolation of the Freedom Party.

Whether or not one agrees with the Freedom Party is beside the point. What

is important to understand is what the European Union did.

A heavy hand was applied by the EU against a small member state simply because the Union did not like a particular party that was democratically elected. Today, it is Austria. Who will it be tomorrow?

Britain? And for what other reasons?

How does all this tie in with Daniel 2? It is in the days of a colossal empire with great wealth, strength and trading power, with a support grouping of 10 kings, powers or authorities, that the

*What are we to do about it? Keep our eyes on these and related developments in the Middle East. We must also diligently attend to our spiritual character, to prepare for our future calling.*

God of heaven will set up a kingdom that shall never be destroyed. It is in the "latter days" that this will happen. It is just before the return of Jesus Christ that this will occur. At the end of verse 45, God says through Daniel, "The dream is certain, and its interpretation is sure."

In chapter 12, Daniel is wondering when the culmination of all these things will be. In verse 6 the question is asked by one of two angelic beings he sees on the riverbank, "How long shall the fulfillment of these wonders be?" In other words, when it all comes to a head, how long will the end game be? In verse 7, the being described as "a man clothed

in linen," says, "it shall be for a time, times and half a time," meaning three and a half years.

Toward the end of the last chapter of Daniel, he is told, "Go your way, Daniel, for the words are closed up and sealed till the time of the end" (Daniel 12:9). This tells us that when it all comes about, God's people will understand and recognize just what it is that is rising in front of our eyes.

### **"Countdown to Disaster"**

The London *Daily Mail* of January 7, 2000, spoke of a "Countdown to Disaster." It said, "...this is the make-or-break year for Britain's continued membership of the European Union... The deadline comes next December when the leaders of the EU meet, probably in Paris, to sign what will be arguably the most decisive European treaty yet—the one which, by giving the EU its own written constitution, will mark a last crucial step in welding 'Europe' into a single state."

What is Britain to do now to try to prevent this? There is nothing that it can do!

The power Britain once had has gone. The days when Britain could prevent Europe rising as a powerful, dominant and domineering federal state have gone.

How do we know that what we see happening in Europe at such a frightening speed is the final fulfillment of Daniel 2 and later chapters of Revelation? We cannot know at this time, but these events must be watched carefully in view of Bible prophecy.

What are we to do about it? Keep our eyes on these and related developments in the Middle East. We must also diligently attend to our spiritual character, to prepare for our future calling. The Church must be about the Work the Father has called us to do, to preach the good news of the coming Kingdom of God along with a warning of what is to happen before that Kingdom is set up. And we need to pray always, "Your Kingdom come"—and please may it be soon! ❖

# In Brief...

## World News Review

### Zimbabwe—a Crisis-Torn Country

Zimbabwe, a once prosperous African nation, is seriously short of food, and its lack of fuel has brought industry to a standstill. The country's infrastructure is fraying badly at the edges with schools and hospitals struggling to survive. Most blame these humanly caused misfortunes on President Robert Mugabe's brutal regime.

As *The Sunday Telegraph* reported, "With the country's economy in tatters, thanks to years of misrule, Mugabe thought he had a guaranteed vote winner when his loyal constitutional panel drew up clause 57, to enshrine land confiscation and demand compensation for white farmers by [from] the old colonial power: Britain."

Zimbabwe's government was in shock after the people produced the courage to stand up to the regime by voting "no" in the recent constitutional referendum. Yet there are reports of the illegal occupation of quite a number of white-owned farms in spite of that national vote.

Moreover, the Zimbabwe dollar was worth 50 British pence when President Mugabe assumed power. It is now valued at 1.5 pence. And as *The Independent on Sunday* reported, "Every week 1,200 Zimbabweans die of AIDS and life expectancy since 1980 has fallen from 59 to 42."

A beautiful country has apparently been laid waste and many of British descent are applying for passports at the British High Commission in the nation's capital, Harare, preparing to emigrate.

Sources: *The Sunday Telegraph*, *The Independent on Sunday*, *The Daily Mail* (all London).

### Nuclear Transfer Technology—Cloning Pigs and "Growing" Organs

Genetic engineering and the cloning of pigs have come together to encourage hope in the field of medical transplants. Some 60,000 people in the U.S. are on a waiting list to receive a new organ. Finding a donor is only the beginning, for every patient faces the real potential of having a new organ rejected immediately upon transplantation. Large quantities of powerful anti-rejection drugs

are administered, but they weaken the person's entire system. Once the initial hurdle is passed, rejection is still possible and anti-rejection medication is necessary over the long term.

Therefore, quality of life may be far from ideal.

What can be done to improve the transplant patient's odds of finding a donor, surviving the surgery and not rejecting the new organ in the long term? Enter the common pig. Well, not so common, actually. Enter the genetically altered, cloned pig.

Animal-to-human organ donation is known as "xenotransplantation." If the technology to grow acceptable animal organs can be mastered, an unlimited supply of organs will be available for transplantation into humans.

The same technology that brought the world Dolly, the cloned sheep, has made it possible to clone pigs. That technology is nuclear transfer, removing the nucleus from an egg cell and replacing it with the nucleus of a cell that scientists wish to clone. Cloning pigs is more difficult than cloning sheep, cattle or mice—all of which have been done. Some new techniques were developed to make the cloning of pigs possible.

Why work with pigs? The organs of a pig are closest in size to those of humans. Biogenetic engineering enables scientists to remove a gene that would cause the initial rejection of an organ, thus bypassing the first major hurdle to transplantation. They can also add genes that would slow the long-term rejection of the transplanted organ. The genetically altered pig could be cloned and reproduced as often as desired. *Voilà*—an "organ factory" is created.

The first cloned piglets were born in March, announced the company that created Dolly, the cloned sheep. PPL Therapeutics Inc. has been working on the project for some time and sees the potential for medical use as "huge."

Parallel research is ongoing in taking DNA from the patient who needs a new organ, and literally growing a new one. Nuclear transfer is also the basis for these experiments. Most likely the first application will be in creating insulin-producing cells to replace nonfunctioning ones in the pancreas of diabetics. This biotechnology, scientists project, will enable them to grow entire organs, including hearts, muscles, bones and skin.

Advanced Cell Technology, a Massachusetts company, has been able to create embryos from cow eggs with the nuclei removed and replaced by human DNA. The cells grow into an embryonic life that produces human embryonic stem cells—the basic building block cells from which all cells grow.

The biocommand that will “tell” the stem cells what kind of cell to grow into has not yet been discovered.

The ethical questions are great. On the one side are those who see this as tampering with life and on the other side are those who see this as making life possible. Researcher Michael West, who works for Advanced Cell Technology, says that since they work with embryos that are less than 14 days old, “There is no human entity there.” That’s difficult to accept, when you believe as the UCGIA does, that life begins at conception.

(Sources: “First Cloned Piglet Birth Near,” UPI, Feb. 16, 2000; “Scientists Optimistic About Sheep Cloning Implications,” UPI, Sept. 27, 1999.)

## Rabbis Sanction Gay “Marriages”

Rabbis in America’s largest Jewish movement have declared that they can officiate at same-sex unions, but stopped short of calling them marriages.

The decision was made in secret after a debate by members of the Central Conference of American Rabbis, the rabbinical arm of the liberal group known as Reform Judaism, which has more than 1.5 million members.

The resolution backed any rabbi’s decision to preside over affirmation of a gay union using any “appropriate Jewish ritual.” In a compromise that made passage of the measure possible, the group recognized its divisions of opinion by agreeing also to support any rabbis who choose not to officiate at such ceremonies.

Other American Christian and Jewish denominations are to debate homosexual weddings in the coming months. The issue will be opposed by the Presbyterian, United Methodist and Episcopal churches.

Until now, only the Unitarian Church and the United Church of Christ, both small Christian groups, have formally allowed clergy to officiate at same-sex unions. Two Jewish groups, the Conservative branch and the Orthodox movement, remain firmly opposed to the idea as contrary to Jewish law. The Torah calls homosexuality an abomination.

The vote reflects the spirit of the Reform movement, founded in the 19th century. Its members do not consider themselves bound by traditional Jewish law. Rather, they believe that rules, such as those governing the Sabbath and diet, should be more in keeping with the times.

Source: *The Times* of London, March 31, 2000.

Contributors: Darris McNeely,  
Cecil E. Maranville, John Ross Schroeder

“ENEMY,” (Continued from page 16)

McDonald inserted McCain’s vivid recollections of his dramatic rescue. “One of them slammed a rifle butt down on my shoulder and smashed it pretty badly. Another stuck a bayonet in my foot.” Young men approached with bricks. On said, “They surely would have beaten him to death. I said I wanted to rescue this man and return him to his family.”

What was the difference between On and his neighbors? Why didn’t he allow McCain to drown? What motivated him to stand up to those who wanted to murder the American aviator?

### “You became a human”

Long ago, Solomon shared his musings on life in Ecclesiastes 9:11–12: “The race is not to the swift, nor the battle to the strong, nor bread to the wise, nor riches to men of understanding, nor favor to men of skill; but time and chance happen to them all. For man also does not know his time; like fish taken in a cruel net, like birds caught in a snare, so the sons of men are snared in an evil time, when it falls suddenly upon them.”

On that autumn day in 1967, “time and chance” came upon a young American warrior who was in the wrong spot for him and the right spot for the missile—and down he came.

What motivated Mai Van On? Was it fame or fortune? Not at all. It wasn’t until 1970 that On began to understand that the man he had rescued came from a distinguished American family. As many Americans know, the young flier’s father was a U.S. admiral and the McCain line had a long service record in the U.S. armed forces. Some of On’s friends said the fallen aviator was the son of a billionaire and that he should try to obtain a reward. But he didn’t.

It would be nearly 30 years before the two would meet again. John McCain, retired from the U.S. Navy and then an influential U.S. senator, encountered Mai Van On at a small gathering of politicians and veterans in Hanoi. On recognized his face immediately and said, “Hello, John McCain.”

McDonald described the reunion when McCain pointedly asked On why he would rescue an enemy pilot who only moments before had been bombing his countrymen. On’s telling reply, “Yes, you were my enemy and we were in opposing armies, but when I saw you were in difficulty in the water, you became a human in my heart.”

### War is easier at a distance

Wars are much easier at a distance. Only when we get up close do we recognize that the enemy is like us. In reading On’s comments about “the enemy” with whom he came face to face, I recalled the line from the famous anti-war novel *All Quiet on the Western Front*, written by Remarque shortly after World War I.

Young Paul, prematurely aged by the horrors of war, is stuck in a foxhole with a French soldier that he has just bayoneted. Time and chance had occurred here, as well. The French



*U.S. Senator John McCain meets his rescuer Mai Van On 29 years later*

soldier dove for cover in what he thought was the only place he could escape, only to find the end of a bayonet thrust by a startled Paul. Paul is unable to leave the foxhole due to the bombardment. So, ever so slowly, he watches the life ebb from the Frenchman whom he cannot finish off.

When his enemy is finally dead, remorse sets in. “The silence spreads, I talk and must talk. So I speak to him and say to him: ‘Comrade, I did not want to kill you. If you jumped in here again, I would not do it, if you would be sensible too. But you were only an idea to me before, an abstraction that lived in my mind and called forth its appropriate response. It was that abstraction I stabbed. But now, for the first time, I see you as a man like me. I thought of your hand grenades, of your bayonet, of your rifle; now I see your wife and your face and our fellowship.

“ ‘Forgive me, comrade. We always see it too late. Why do they never tell us that you are just poor devils like us, that your mothers are just as anxious as ours, and that we have the same fear of death, and same dying and the same agony— Forgive me, comrade; how could you be my enemy? If we threw away these rifles and this uniform you could be my brother just like Kat and Albert. Take twenty years of my life, comrade, and stand up—take more, for I do not know what I can even attempt to do with it now.’ ”

These are powerful moments and powerful thoughts of a young German warrior whose enemy also became human in his heart—too late. Paul would himself die just before Armistice Day.

Actions are better than reactions and the strength of proactive character is more viable than the strength of apologies. Moments of character do not always bring instant rewards. Your friends may oppose your choices. You may become a pariah. You may not realize the value of your actions until many years later—but the way of character is always right.

*Before the metals of weapons can be bent or melted down into instruments of peace, human nature must first be melted down and bent in a new direction.*

After being rescued, John McCain would spend five years in the notorious “Hanoi Hilton.” He would survive two suicide attempts before his release in 1973.

As for Colonel On—he recently got some government money from a land sale and built a new concrete house behind the family’s old thatched-walled homestead. He’s worried that three of his four daughters don’t have jobs. He’s worried about Truc Bach Lake in which the rescue of the young American took place. The lake has become so polluted that On states, “John McCain would die of poisoning if he were to parachute into the lake today.” He doesn’t have a television, but he followed the news regarding the aspirations of an American politician that he once held in his arms. Yes, life with all its cares and worries goes on.

### **Bending minds before bending metal**

Isaiah 2:4 speaks prophetically of a time in the future when “they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore.” It speaks of a world that for the first time

is going to be able to fully detect one another’s humanity in their own hearts. The world as a whole is going to be able to capture the same vision that Colonel On focused on—when his heart met the eyes of a drowning enemy.

Before the metals of weapons can be bent or melted down into instruments of peace, human nature must first be melted down and bent in a new direction.

Not everyone will be confronted with such a dramatic moment as that which challenged Mai Van On on October 26, 1967. Our choices will likely be less obvious—although no less real.

How many of us believe that others are our “enemies”—people with whom we cannot get along, for various reasons? Are we able—are we willing—to look at others the way this North Vietnamese colonel looked at a naval aviator who had just bombed his city? He didn’t see an enemy. He saw a drowning man in need of rescue.

Sometimes there isn’t a lot of time to deliberate about choosing the way of character. Colonel On stated, “If I had hesitated one minute, I’m sure [Senator McCain] would have died.” We have the opportunity to plan and prepare to make the right choice in advance.

These are sobering thoughts, but I hope that they also give an encouraging picture of what can be. As Colonel On swims out to an unknown enemy pilot, his every stroke reverberates with the millennial refrain, “this is the way, walk you in it.” ❖

# This Is the Way... The Enemy Became a Human

by Robin Webber

**S**enator John McCain's prisoner of war experience has been mentioned often in the U.S. presidential campaign. There's a story within the story, however, chronicled by Mark McDonald of the Knight Ridder News Service. I want to focus not on the senator, but on Mai Van On—the man who pulled McCain from Truc Bach Lake in North Vietnam, on October 26, 1967.

McDonald recounted the events of that morning, which, at the time, may have seemed like just one more of many bombing raids on Hanoi in the fall of 1967. Mai Van On said, "It was about 11 a.m. I had just come home for lunch and put my bicycle into the house. Then the air-raid siren went off and 60 to 70 of us ran to a tunnel to avoid the bombs. I was at the entrance of the tunnel when I saw the pilot go into the water."

Then On related the trauma of the moment: "The tunnel was still shaking from the bombing when I ran to the lake."

McDonald wrote that On had witnessed "the desperate flier, John Sidney McCain III, [who] had floated down into Hanoi's Truc Bach Lake after his Navy Skyhawk bomber was hit by a North Vietnamese missile." No one knew at that moment that the lone figure descending into the lake had been knocked uncon-

scious when he ejected from his plane, and that both of his arms were broken and his right knee shattered.

On, a retired colonel of the North Vietnamese army, plunged into the lake after the injured pilot while the bombing raid continued on the factory where On worked as a security guard.

**"He's the enemy!"**

When he jumped into the water and began to swim the 200 yards to the point of impact, his neighbors yelled out, "He's the enemy! Let him die!" As On reached the impact point, all he could see was a bit of white silk of the parachute. The young American's 50 pounds of flight gear held him beneath the surface. On used a stout bamboo pole to hoist the wounded pilot to the surface while the bombs continued to fall.

McDonald continued: "On managed to drag McCain ashore, where a crowd of about 40 people had gathered. Unaware that their injured prisoner was the son of a high-ranking American admiral, they stripped him to his underwear, then began kicking him, spitting on him, screaming for him to be killed."

(See "ENEMY," page 14)